

Reel Bits



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Another Cast

The Amazing Montebello Islands

by

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I have just returned from an amazing fishing trip to the Montebello Islands off the coast of Western Australia. The trip was organised by Hook Up Bait and Tackle and involved 16 anglers most of whom live in Melbourne. After flying to Perth and then another 2 hour flight to Karratha we travelled to the Montebello islands which are approximately 100 km's off the Western Australian coast. The accommodation was to be one the two mother-ships which are moored in a comfortable anchorage around the 100+ uninhabited islands.

We each took our turn to fish on one of three boats which were designed for various types of fishing. A 60ft roomy boat for bottom bouncing using bait and jigs, a 26ft Boston Whaler centre console for popper throwing for GT's and trolling for other pelagics and a 40ft Blackwatch game boat for targeting sailfish and marlin. I had heard of this amazing fishery and had very high expectations but nothing could have prepared me for the next seven days!!

We released 18 sailfish on the first day and that was bettered by 19 the next day and 21 another day. The final total was 67 in three and a half days. All the billfish were caught using the exciting switch bait method. Whilst the sailfish were firing the other boats were catching a countless variety of reef fish, Giant Trevally and Spanish Mackerel. They were all quality fish too.....including coral trout and red emperor and some of the best fighting and eating fish known to man.

We lost countless lures to fish that were too big and too strong. Many rods were broken and many times we could not handle the ridiculous power of some of the huge fish that we hooked up. Sadly we were unable to fish the last 2 days due to strong winds. ... but it was an amazing and unforgettable trip.



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